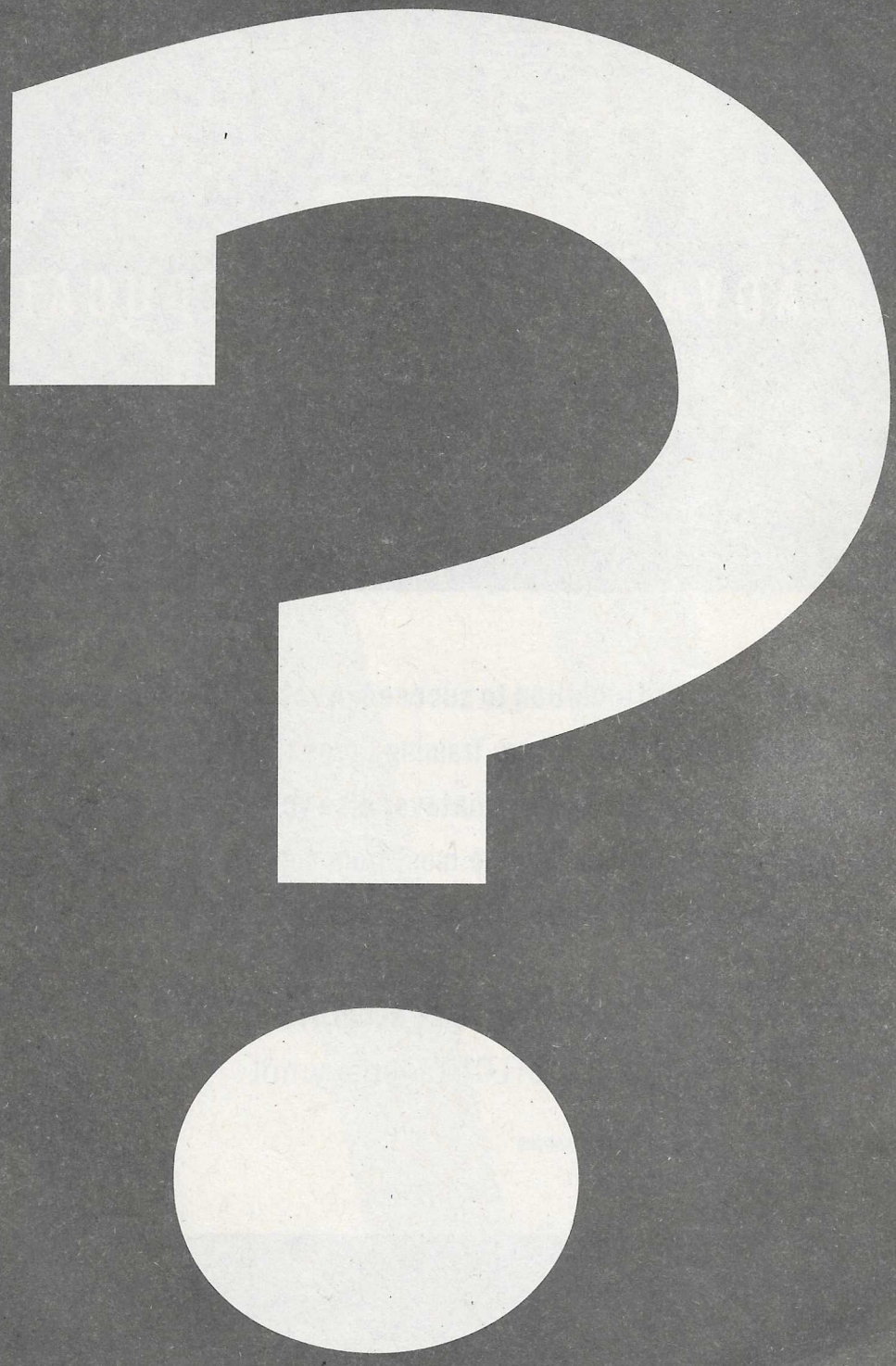
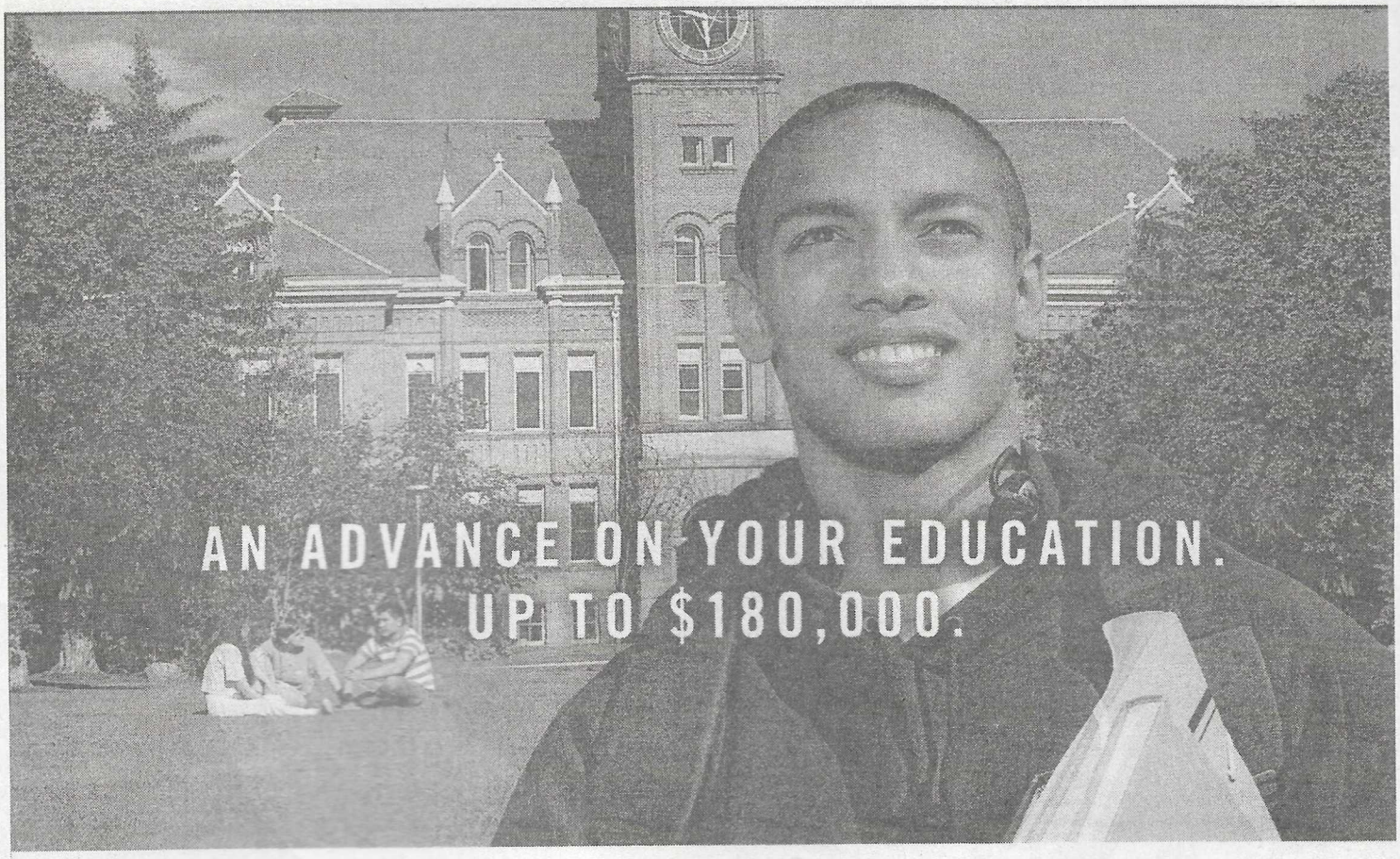
THE CLAW

Volume I • October 2012



"Working" This Fall / Halloween How-To / The Newest Citizens



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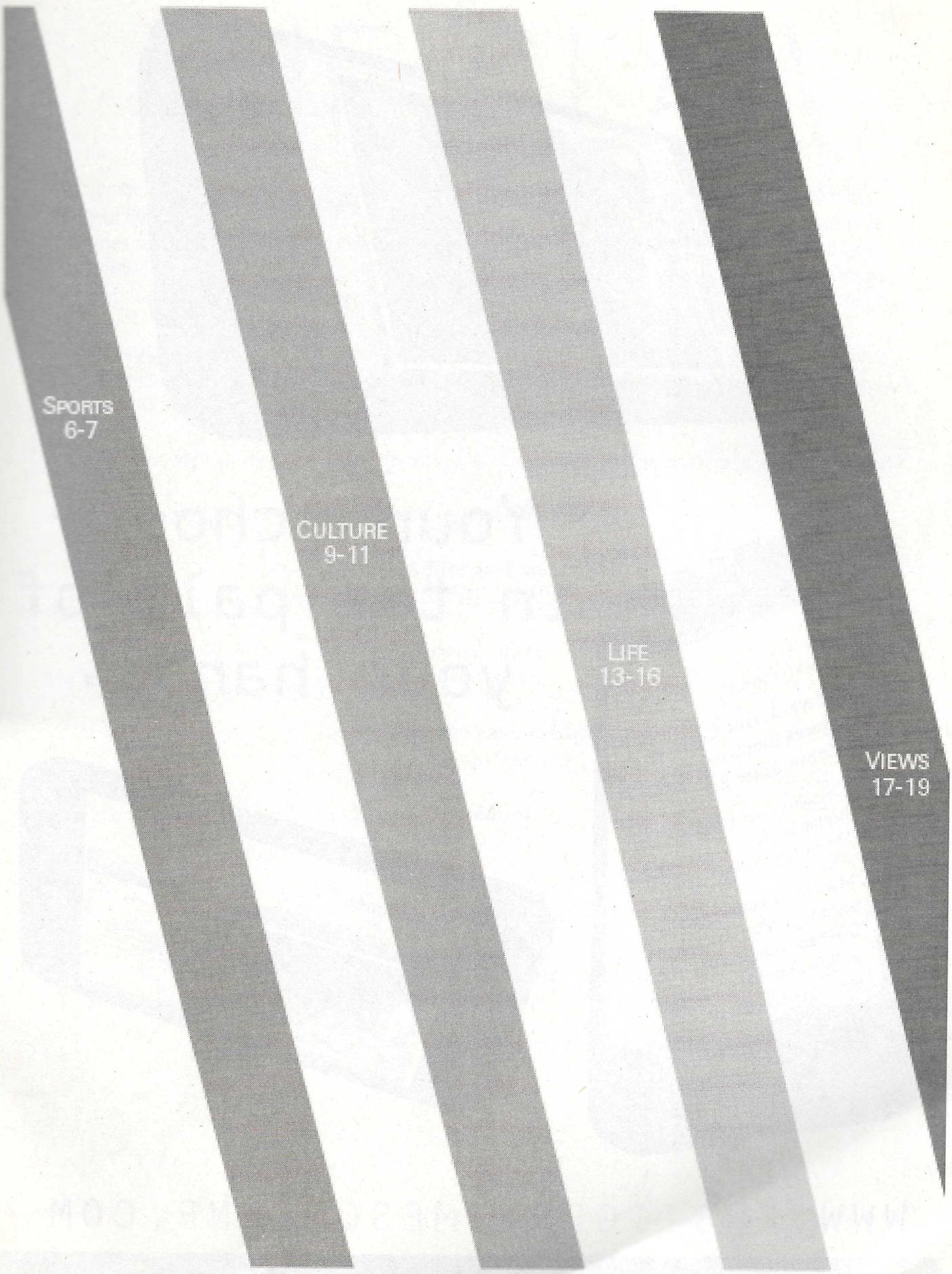
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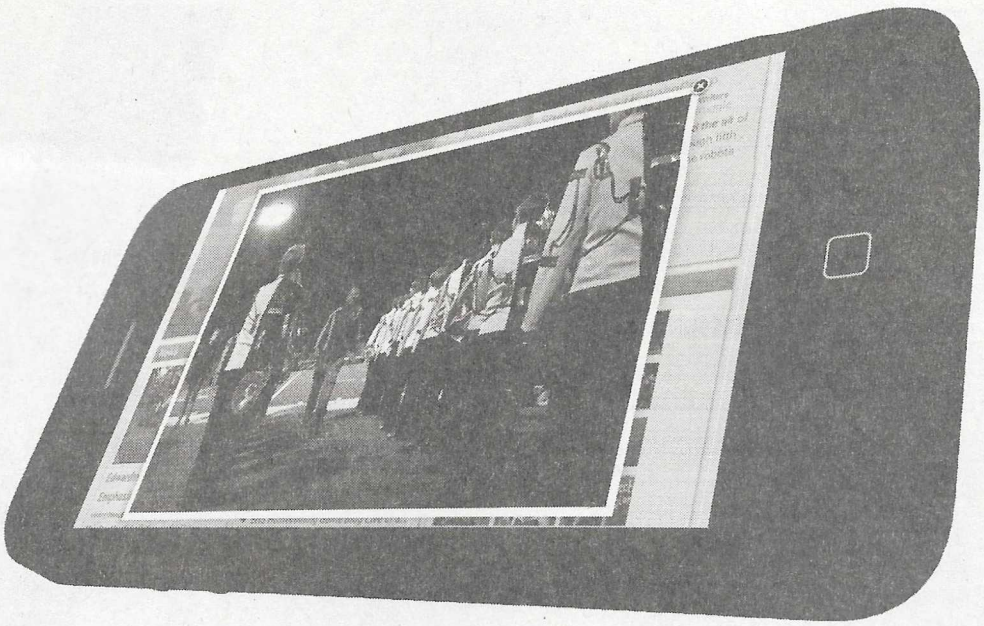

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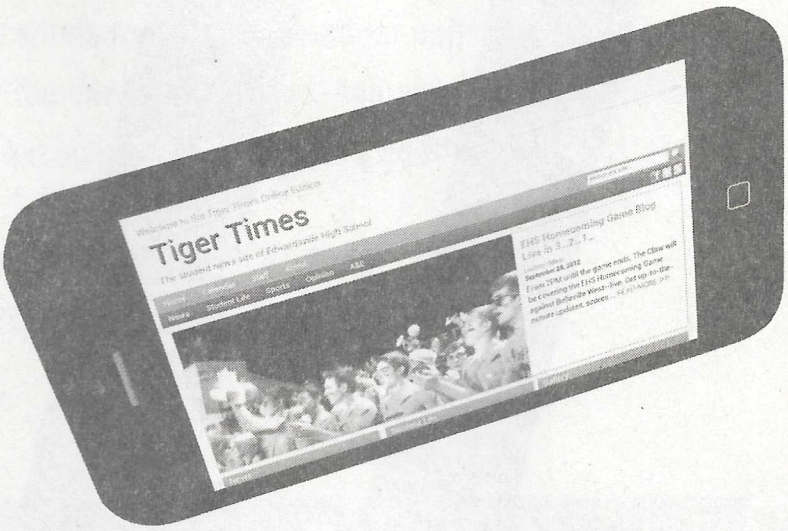

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THE CLAW

The ultimate goal of The Claw is reporting Sports, Culture, Life and Views stories to the students and faculty of Edwardsville High School. Journalism and Yearbook members collaborate in order to produce the stories and pictures; however stories by students outside of these groups may submit, and can be published if they are exceptional. The Claw is a student-run publication, and the opinions/views featured in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of District 7 or any of the staff it employs.

We appreciate letters to the editor, so long as the topics discussed remain school appropriate. These letters may not be any longer than 200 words, and can be sent to lindsey.odom@gmail.com, or brought to room A113 before or after school.

We reserve the right to reject any letters for any reason, including inappropriateness, lack of space, etc.

We are not required to give an explanation for rejected letters.

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Letter From the Editor

Dear Edwardsville Students,

Welcome to TheCLAW.

This is going to be a whole new media experience for EHS—a fresh take on what's on your minds, happening in your school, and going on in your lives.

So what's different?

For starters, there's no more printed Tiger Times. All that hard-hitting news? You'll find it online, at www.ehstigertimesonline.com.

All of the sports scores you live on, the events you wait for, and the town news you want to know about are updated weekly—many of them with photo galleries. Even if you weren't able to attend the event, you'll know what happened, who was there, and what it looked like.

This means that now, we have the space to make something entirely new and innovative happen, right in your hands.

When this year began, we decided that the Tiger Times was getting dated as a paper. There weren't enough recent stories, news that mattered when the paper came out was hard to provide, and the format was getting unwieldy. It was time for a change.

TheCLAW is all about you. It features students, teachers, and the things you care about on every single page. Culture, Style, How-To's, Sports, Opinions and more—all nestled within the pages you're about to turn.

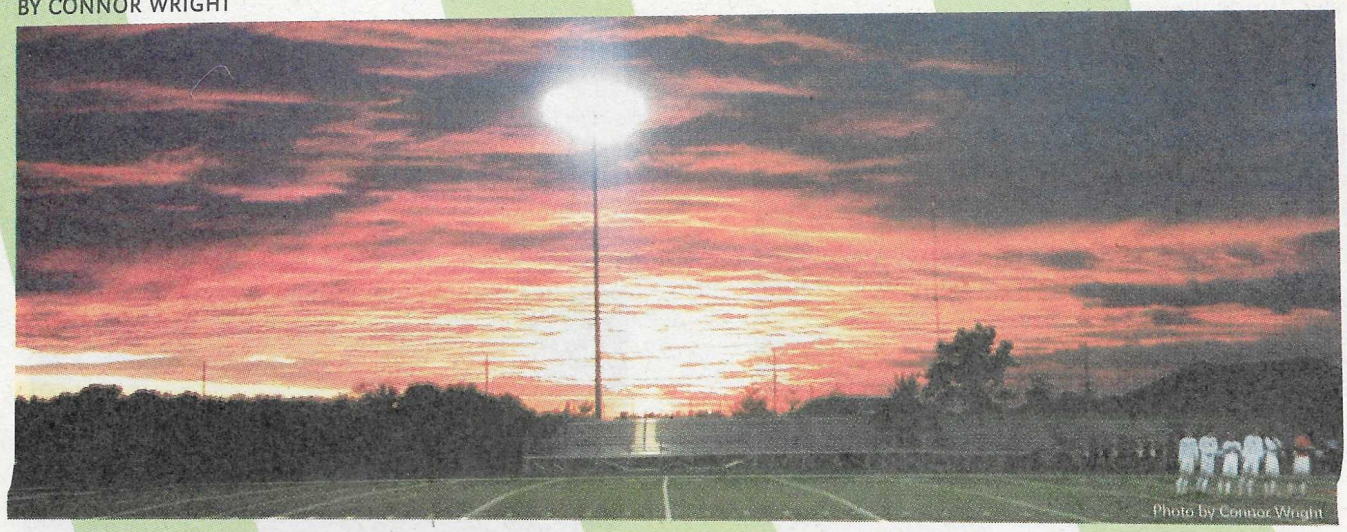
If there's something going on within these walls or city limits, we'll find it; and if we don't, we want you to tell us about it. This is your school, your life, and your magazine.

Are you ready for this?

Lindsey Odom,
Editor-In-Chief,
THE CLAW

Tigers Create Long-Lasting Legacy

BY CONNOR WRIGHT



Tiger Varsity Soccer player lines up under the lights on the turf in a home conference game on Sept. 11.

Legacy is a word that is used too often when it comes to sports; however, it is always on the minds of the athletes here at EHS. Legacy is something that Tiger athletes continue to build upon as the years go by.

Junior football player D'Anthony Knight feels his season is a way to show his love for the game. "The season is about Tiger Pride and it lets people express their pride in their school and sports teams," Knight said.

A junior and golfer Emilee Flaugher looks to set an example to future athletes. "I want athletes to know that hard work will get you what you want. I want to leave behind the idea that you can be as good as you want to be, you just need to have the determination to work to get there," Flaugher said.

A junior and volleyball player Camrey Saye has seen how far a program can come, and admires all of the players' dedication to their sport. "When the volleyball program first started years ago, Edwardsville was lucky to have a .500 season. Now we keep building and building. My freshman year was the first year that Edwardsville Volleyball ever made it to state," Saye said.

From winning half of your games to going to state is an incredible improvement that makes many students at EHS look to the postseason of Volleyball with anticipation.

A senior and soccer player Tyler Postol believes the high school season to be more than just about winning. "High school season is fun because you get to play for your school and represent them, you get to play with friends and make new ones, as well as making memories I will never forget. No athlete should ever take the season for granted. [The season] is the greatest time of any student athlete's career in high school," Postol said.

Another senior athlete, field hockey player Annie Nickrent, feels attached to this particular season.

"This is my final season and field hockey has become one of the most important parts of my life," Nickrent said. "Since there are no field hockey teams in our conference, we get to represent EHS across the river in the St. Louis area. It really is awesome creating a name for our school in another state," Nickrent said.

A junior and tennis player Brandon Harris looks to this season as an opportunity to showcase his hard work. "We have a highly competitive and demanding schedule this year. I'm excited to see how it turns out because we have a large number of talented players that need to be challenged."

Brandon Harris found himself thinking fondly of a lost tournament match.

"I was the last match of the tournament still playing," Harris said. "Even though the team had already taken the lead, I had the whole team cheering me on. I lost the match to a great player who was just older and more experienced than I was. Nevertheless, the support I felt and being challenged to that extreme made that match a great time."

Although Harris is a big name at EHS Tennis, he is not the biggest. Senior Morgan McGinnis won conference and sectionals in tennis this year while recovering from a stroke eight months earlier.

"Eight months ago she couldn't walk because of the stroke she suffered, but to see her back on the court even, is just incredible," Clark said. "Watching her win conference and sectionals in tennis is the highlight of my senior year," die-hard EHS fan Josh Clark said. "She really is the strongest and most inspirational person I know, and I'm proud to have someone as amazing as she is in my life."

Clark isn't just proud of McGinnis though, he's also proud of the entire EHS Athletics program.

"Our future athletes have big shoes to fill as the sports are littered with talented seniors. But I am very confident in our programs and I know we can be successful for years to come," Clark said.

Clark, like many other students and athletes, expects a lot from future athletes. "EHS has always had a tradition of excellence and sportsmanship. Being an athlete myself, I can confidently say we are one of the most respectful teams out there and I know we will continue this tradition," Clark said.

Photo Essay: Sports Roundup

BY CONNOR WRIGHT

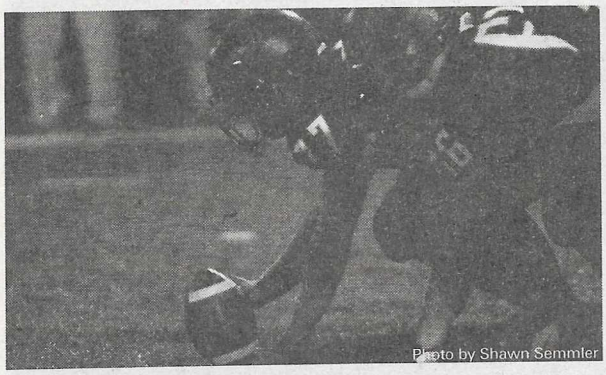
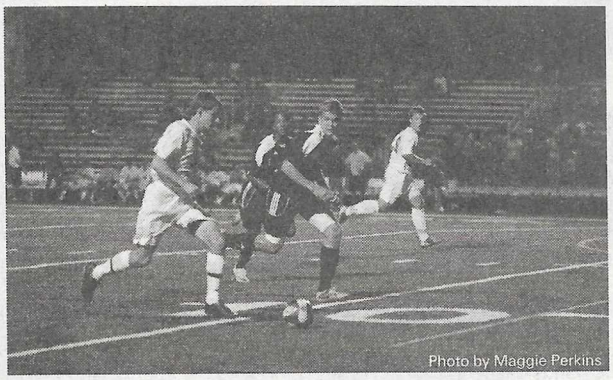


Photo by Shawn Semmler

Edwardsville Tiger Football has continued its career of excellence this year with a record of 8-1. Tiger Football is ranked 7th in class 8ain the state.

Edwardsville Boys' Soccer has proved to be a force to be reckoned with. The Varsity team is heading into sectionals with a record of 15-5-2.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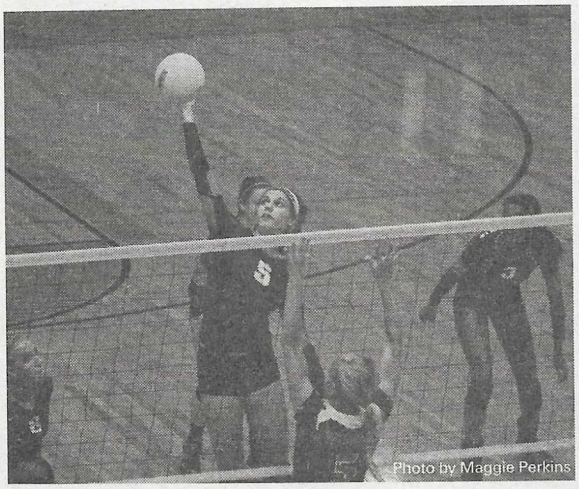
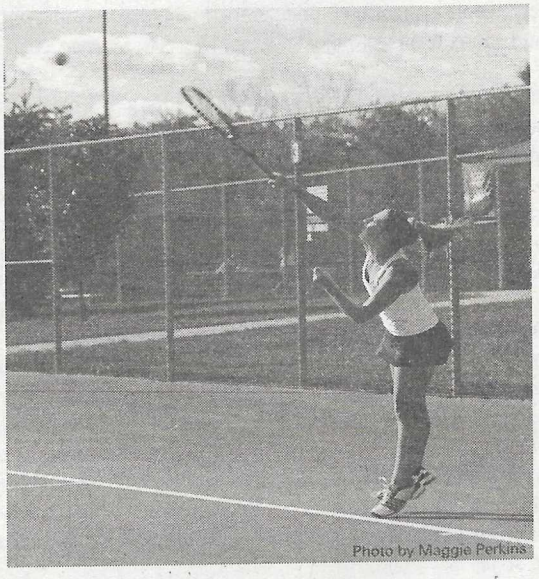


Photo by Maggie Perkins

After two consecutive years of overall success, the Lady Tiger's volleyball team hopes to return to state for a second year after an appearance in 2010. The overall record of the girls' volleyball team is 16-4.

Lady Tiger Tennis has always been a program that produces successful athletes. This year is no exception. EHS tennis athletes have worked harder than ever to build upon their past successes.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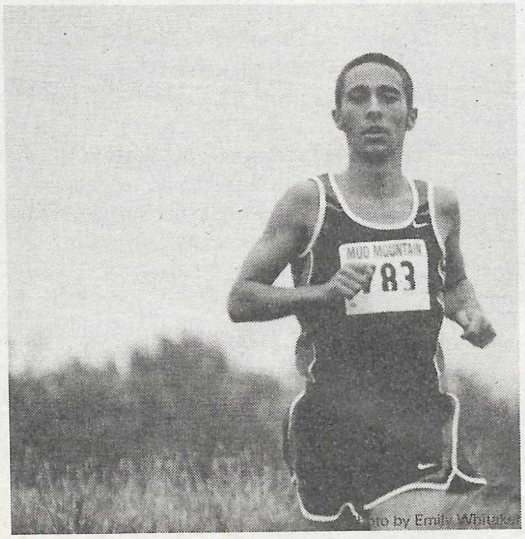


Photo by Emily Whitaker

With losing Garrett Sweatt last year, the EHS Cross Country team is young. But with their age, comes potential, senior Chad Maxwell said.

Do You Work? I Work. Everyone is...

EDITORIAL STAFF

students

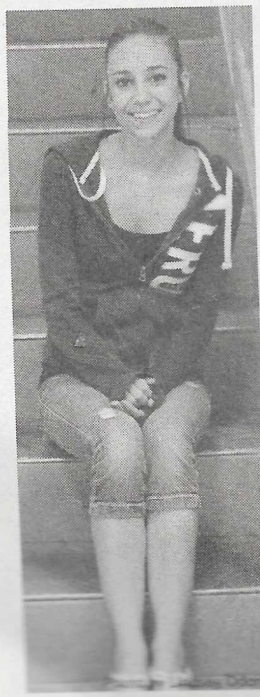
Ashley Green: Knapp, Ohl, and Green Law Office

Photo Courtesy of Facebook

What does your job entail?
"I'm just a general office clerk—I do little jobs so that the receptionists and paralegals can squeeze more into their day. I make copies, file papers...general, miscellaneous stuff."

Have you learned anything interesting?
"It's shaped my thinking a little bit. I tend to be a little more multifaceted when I try to understand where someone is coming from....I have to read things in [the legal papers] that really put twists into the cases and complicate matters, so I've learned more about how there's always two sides to every story."

Have you ever oveheard anything scandalous about a case?
"Oh! Yes! My dad's had cases where people suing their previous employers will say something like, 'I broke my leg on the job and couldn't work for 8 months,' but my dad will check their Facebooks and see they've been doing P90x—so obviously, they've been lying in court."



Michelle Largin: Waitress at Fazoli's

What does your job entail?
"When it isn't kids' night, I work up front and make sure the guests have everything they need. I also bus tables. I'm sort of a waitress, but I don't take orders."

Kids' Night? What's that?
"Kids' Night is really fun—I basically get to sit with the kids and play with them. There's all kinds of cool things for the kids to do; there was actually a fire truck last week."

What do you enjoy about your job?
"I love getting to meet new people while working, and I enjoy the people I work with, too. It's a reallly fun environment, and we all joke around with each other a lot. I absolutely love playing with all of the kids."

staff

Meet Stan Meeks: Security Monitor for 19 Years

What do you enjoy about your job?
"I enjoy working with the students, [and] the faculty members."

Is what you do hard work?
"It can be difficult at times, you just have to be proactive on a lot of things. Other times, it's not so difficult. It's up-and-down."

Where did you work before EHS?
"I used to work for a construction company many years ago, [and I] taught music at East St. Louis State Community College until my program was discontinued."

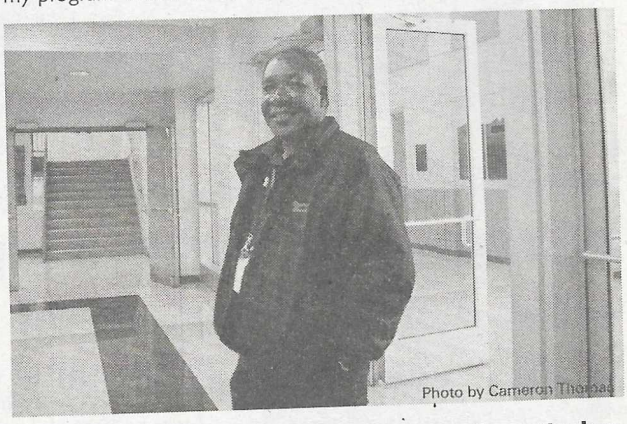


Photo by Cameron Thomas

Debbie Clemings & Mildred Cooper: Secretaries

How does working here compare to your previous jobs?
"I dealt more with the staff, compared to [students] here." says Clemings. "You have to multitask...and learn to do multiple things at the same time."

Can working with students be challenging sometimes?
"Sometimes it can be, you have to learn how to put yourself in their shoes...It makes things easier when you can relate to the students," Cooper said.

Photo by Cameron Thomas

Photo by Cameron Thomas

Choirs Delight with Familiar Tunes

BY KELSEY SIMS

The students of the EHS choir participated in their first concert of the year. On Oct. 11, the night began with a short skit by the two choir teachers, Lynda Marshall and Tim Havis, and the chamber singers about the proper audience etiquette.

Afterward, the Chamber Singers preformed three songs, one of which was named "My bonnie lass, she smelleth," a humorous rendition of the classical chamber song "My bonnie lass, she smileth."

"I feel that our performance was extremely rewarding," says senior Elizabeth McBride. "Chamber is so different from regular choir, so I was very pleased with our performance."

Concert Choir 1 was the next group to perform, followed by Bel Canto, the all selective girls' choir group and Aca-Fellas, the boys' counterpart of Bel Canto.

Bel canto preformed two songs, the Beatles' "Penny Lane" and Katrina and the Waves' "Walkin' on Sunshine." The boys, then, preformed Bruno Mars' hit single, "Just the Way You Are".

After the boys exited the stage, Concert Choir 2 took the stage in a very different way. After realizing that Michael Ezell was missing, Mrs. Marshall called for him to come back on stage. A few minutes later, he strutted out on the stage trying his best to act like it was a part of the show while the audience applauded.

"It almost seemed like it was another skit, they played it off so well," said junior Bonnie Schuett.

Once everyone was situated the boys began to sing their piece. Seconds later, the back doors of the auditorium opened to reveal the choir's girls who glided down the aisles adding the melody to the boys' harmony. After Concert Choir 2 performed, Marshall motioned for the choir students to join the choir on stage. Unfortunately, as it was the Choir 1 students' first concert, they understood that to be their queue.

After about half of the students made it to the stage, they were promptly told to go back. Both the Chamber Singers and Choir 2 were supposed to sing a piece before the new choir joined them. They then sang their joint piece without anymore error.

Finally, all of the choir students crammed onto the risers on stage to perform the last song, "Fill-a Me Up".

"I was very pleased with our performance, says the new choir teacher, Mr. Havis. "I felt it was a big step up from our rehearsals."

The next choir concert takes place in December and will feature an original piece performed by both the choir and orchestra.

Symphonic Orchestra Keeps it Classy

BY CAMERON THOMAS

The Symphonic Orchestra held their annual fall concert in the auditorium where students performed baroque and classical composition pieces.

On Oct. 12 the chairs of each section, violin, viola, cello, and bass, led the tuning of each instrument. The chairs must listen for a note and play it for the rest of the orchestra to hear.

The concert began with the strikingly powerful classical composition "Overture to the Marriage of Figaro" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart led by Orchestra director Ms. McLaughlin-Heil.

Senior cellist led the next two pieces, "St. Anthony Chorale" and "Menuetto" from "Divertimento" by Joseph Hayden and were both arranged by David Stone.

"I practiced every other day in class and I felt that it went okay," Hudlin said. The concert night was the fist time the orchestra rehearsed with the full ensemble which includes members from the band.

After the student-conducted piece the orchestra went into another piece by Mozart, "Overture to the Magic Flute." And the first half of the concert concluded with a composition by Johann Strauss Jr., "On the Beautifyl Blue Danube Waltzes."

"I think that we did a great job, we stayed together and I think the orchestra and the band sounded really good together," said first chair violist and junior Brandon Ansbro.

Once the intermission ended, the violins lead the performance of the first movement from "Concerto for 4 Violins, transcribed for Viola" by Antonio Vivaldi. Then the lead was passed onto the cellos for the same composition transposed for cellos.

To end the night on a good note the encore was "The Rainbow Connection" from *The Muppet Movie* by Paul Williams and Kenneth L. Asher.

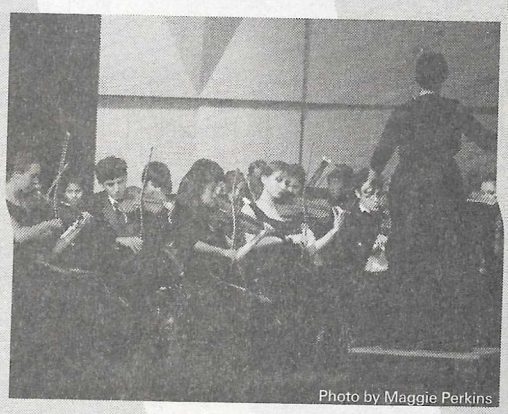


Photo by Maggie Perkins

Photo by Maggie Perkins

WORKING

fall show

BY KELSEY SIMS

EHS Drama club builds, crafts and organizes for the fall production of "working." Photos by Cameron Thomas

When the summer season winds down, many students begin to look for new jobs.

As students begin interviewing for their prospective jobs, the EHS drama club also set out to portray real life interviews in their fall play, "Working."

This production is a theatrical adaptation of the book "Working" by Studs Terkel, who interviewed Chicago citizens about their jobs. The book was then altered into a musical by Nina Faso and Stephen Schwartz.

"Working" is different because it doesn't have a set story line, but a bunch of pieces put together with a common theme," says director Kate Motley.

"It's really different because we are playing a character that actually is a real person," said senior Logan Sherrill.

To get insight on the lives of everyday workers, the cast went out and interviewed with people of the profession that they are supposed to be depicting. They talked to a variety of people from firemen to flight attendants.

The story line of the play is not the only thing that is different about the show, however. The set of the show is unusual as well.

The paint leader, senior Audrey Foland, says that instead of the lights just shining on the set, they are using a different type of paint so that light will be able to shine through the backdrop to create the feeling that the audience are actually in an office setting with sunlight shining through the windows.

"{Working} covers all different kinds of jobs by all different people and really opens your perspective of life and for a teenager, when we have to find a job," said drama club president and senior Abby Davis.

According to Davis, the show demonstrates how all of the different workers in separate jobs come together to create America as a whole.

"I don't really think the play is exactly relatable to the students of EHS because the work world is so far away, but I think that it is something students need to hear about the future," said cast member and senior Korinne Lollar.

The play will take place on Friday, Nov. 9 and Saturday, Nov. 10 both at 7:30 p.m. ///

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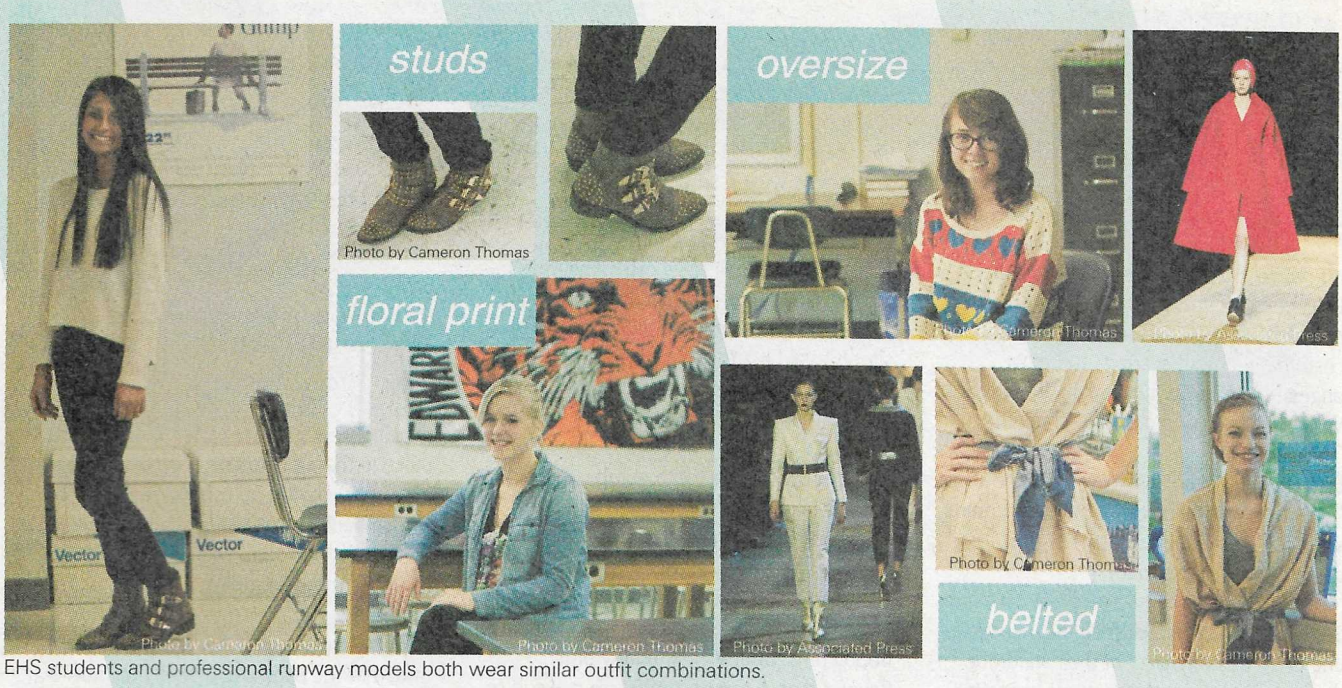
From the Runways to the Hallways

BY CAMERON THOMAS



EHS students and professional runway models both wear similar outfit combinations.

High fashion creations, whether couture or casualwear items, are often thought as ridiculous and insignificant to the everyday person's wardrobe. These assumptions are false.

Something as simple as the color of a jacket in the French fashion house, Dior, Fall/Winter 2012/2013 collection transfers to the color of a coat in Wal-Mart. Details such as these are sometimes hard to recognize, but a few trendy students make them all the more noticeable.

Junior Sydney Woll is not an avid trend-watcher, yet her "comfy and cute" style still has elements seen on in the runway shows such those of British luxury fashion house, Burberry, and French luxury fashion house, Givenchy. What is the main element? Studs.

"I don't follow what's going on. I follow what I think looks good," Woll said.

The stud trend seen on the runway is also being used in the fall lines of brands such as Jason Wu, Nasty Gal and Michael Kors. The growing popularity in the high fashion world has trickled down into items produced by Forever 21 and even Kmart.

Other trends that directly correlate with the Midwestern teen style include: oversized tops and floral patterns.

Sophomore Abbey Gulledge has a wardrobe full of big sweaters that almost touch her knees. The internationally known Italian fashion house of Gucci, along with others such as German house Jil Sander, have popularized this "oversized" trend through their vast assortment of coats. Spanish fashion house Balenciaga and French fashion house Chloe show the trend through their jackets and sweaters for both women's and men's lines.

"I just kind of pick whatever I like in my closet to be honest," Gulledge said.

Floral patterns are always in bloom for the Spring/Summer season, but the question is, is it okay for the cooler times of year? Well, now it is. The world of the runway has models dressed from head-to-toe in a variety of floral prints though not everyone wants to go quite that far. Junior Noelle Mefford, for instance, is one of those people.

Mefford paired her Nordstorm's floral blouse with a denim jacket from the same store, along with a pair of H&M leggings and brown boots from Kohl's.

"I didn't do it to be trendy," Mefford said. While many people wear trends without even being aware, Sophomore Cassidy Winters regularly stays up-to-date on the latest trends. "I really like the architecture," Winters said.

Nearly all of her clothing is handmade, whether it be in advance or the day of. The outfit she is sporting in the picture was made just that morning, and exemplifies the fall/winter trend of high waist, belted bottoms.

The belted trend can be seen throughout several different mediums, including trousers, skirts and dresses. It was also popular during the spring/summer season through shorts and skirts. Victoria Beckham, English fashion designer, and Italian fashion designer Alberta Ferretti are two of the many designers who have demonstrated the rise in popularity over this trend.

"I love it. It's retro and awesome," Winters said.

Many people living outside the fashion capitals of New York, London, Milan and Paris probably do not notice just how much of an influence one designer's decisions have over them, but here, it is clear. From the runways to the hallways, it's not that much of a journey.

This Is Halloween, This Is Halloween...

BY LINDSEY ODOM

Halloween—the rockstar event of the year at EHS. Few holidays garner as much attention within the student body as this freaky, frightening, fabulous free-for-all.

One day a year, the school goes wild with frenzied and fanciful ensembles that show off the best and brightest of EHS' talents. EPIC holds a contest for the best costumes in multiple categories, including best group costume, funniest, scariest, and most original—and StuCo is holding a ZombieFest. What makes a good costume, though?

EHS alumni Maclin Schweger, well-known as "The Joker" at Halloween four years running, said "the most successful part of [his] costume was the accuracy."

Studying your character, their mannerisms, and every possible facet of their wardrobe design will give you the costume in spades. "Anyone can throw on a hockey mask and call themselves 'scary', but it takes dedication to your costume and character to really sare the bejeezus out of people," said Schweger.

Most of the character appears by itself the moment you don your costume, but the rest of the illusion comes when you really have the feel of your character.

Senior Alex Harper says he plans to go as "Bane" from the most recent Batman movie, and is confident because he "feels he can put on the persona pretty well." Watch, re-watch and study your character to learn what integral parts make up their personality. Practice them, and keep building on your traits until you can slide into character as easily as a pair of your favorite jeans.

Knowing how to pull off your costume is one thing, but making it in the first place is another. "Putting together the costume doesn't have to be difficult...I acquired pieces from Goodwill, my mom's closet, the internet, and some old toys I had lying around," said Schweger. A few days of dedicated searching will likely find you everything you need for a convincing disguise.

Some costumes require you to wear a wig, and these can be a pain if you've never styled or worn one before. In these situations, tools like bobby pins, wig caps, and hairspray are your best friends. Never, ever use heat on a synthetic wig—the fibers will quickly melt together.

Natural human hair wigs can sometimes take low heat, like that of a hair dryer or a low-power flat iron, but generally it's safest to simply avoid it altogether. Wearing a wig cap ensures that all of your own locks stay firmly in place, and hidden under your new 'do.

A soft brush or fine tooth comb works well for placing hair where you want it to stay, and from there, it's a simple matter of pinning and spraying everything in place. The same applies to your own hair, although heat should be safe to use in small amounts. Bobby pins, bobby pins, bobby pins! Beyond that, a ton of outfits use makeup or masks. There's an ongoing dispute about which is better, but I'm a die-hard makeup user. The EHS handbook also doesn't allow masks to be worn at school—even on Halloween.

> "Anyone can throw on a hockey mask and call themselves 'scary'...it takes dedication to your costume and your character to really scare the bejeezus out of people."

Makeup application can be a real pain, especially if you've never applied your particular character before, so always be sure that you practice before Halloween. Nothing is more uncomfortable than having to apply, remove, and re-apply makeup a thousand times trying to get it right—and it often disrupts the look of your character if your face is raw from scrubbing underneath. "Start on your costumes early to be sure they work."

said senior Katie Smith.

If you wear makeup with your costume, be sure to bring your supplies with you in case something happens to it. Setting powder also helps to keep smudges and blurs from happening on the fly. I tend to lean more towards powder makeup than grease or face paints, because paints rub off and smudge more easily than powder.

Start light—it's always easier to darken your makeup than it is to take it off. Always blend every new shade you put on, and make sure any embellishments are securely adhered to your body. You don't want an eyelash strip to fall off without warning!

Things that you can't find at Goodwill or buried in the depths of a family member's closet can usually be made easily with a sewing machine (or honestly, I've been known to use staples in a pinch.) Small additions and finishing touches can make a mediocre look-alike into a dead ringer with ease, as long as you know how to use them.

My last, and in my opinion most important, piece of advice is: go as something or someone you love. Enjoy your costume, relish putting on another person's persona, and do it for the fun of it. There are a thousand costumes out in the world, but only a few of them might really interest YOU—so pick that one, and rock it!

"I find that most people dress at Halloween for recognizability or theme," says junior Nathan Ash. "I dress for what I love, regardless of whether people get it or not."

Creative Commons by Flickr

How To Make Your Costumes Scream!

acting

1) Study your subject—know their habits, their nervous tics, their likes and dislikes. Remember these and use them to your advantage. Use things like youtube clips, behind-the-scenes footage, and directors' commentary for extra information.

2) Get comfortable as your character. Don't feel embarrassed to get a little ridiculous for the sake of the show!

3) Indulge in the nature of the character; really commit to what or who you're dressed as.

4) Practice on friends until you aren't nervous to do your character in pubic.

sewing

1) Creating a costume doesn't have to be labor-intensive. If you have something large to sew, find a similar article of clothing and edit it before trying to make it from scratch. Goodwill has a truly amazing track record of costume pieces with me.

2) If it only has to last for a day and you won't be able to see them, staples are awesome for securing things quickly and easily.

3) Handsewing is a pain but it can be easier than using a machine for small things (applying a patch, making a pocket)

4) Always measure over—you can take it in any time you want, but it's way harder to let a seam back out.

wigs

1) NEVER, EVER use heat on a wig! Ever! It will melt!

2) Brush or comb the wig out before you ever try to put it on. It's way easier to do small modifications when you're wearing it than to try to tame a rats' nest. Don't rush to untangle it—the fibers will just pop out, and you'll end up bald.

3) Bobby pins are your absolute best and most wonderful asset when it comes to styling a wig. Curved pins hold up better than straight and scalloped pins, and they come in a number of colors to disguise them within the fibers. Hairspray is a close second.

4) Air your wig out overnight before you wear it, otherwise it will smell weird all day.

makeup

1) Always tie your hair back before you start to apply makeup.

2) Start light—it's much harder to take makeup off than it is to put more on.

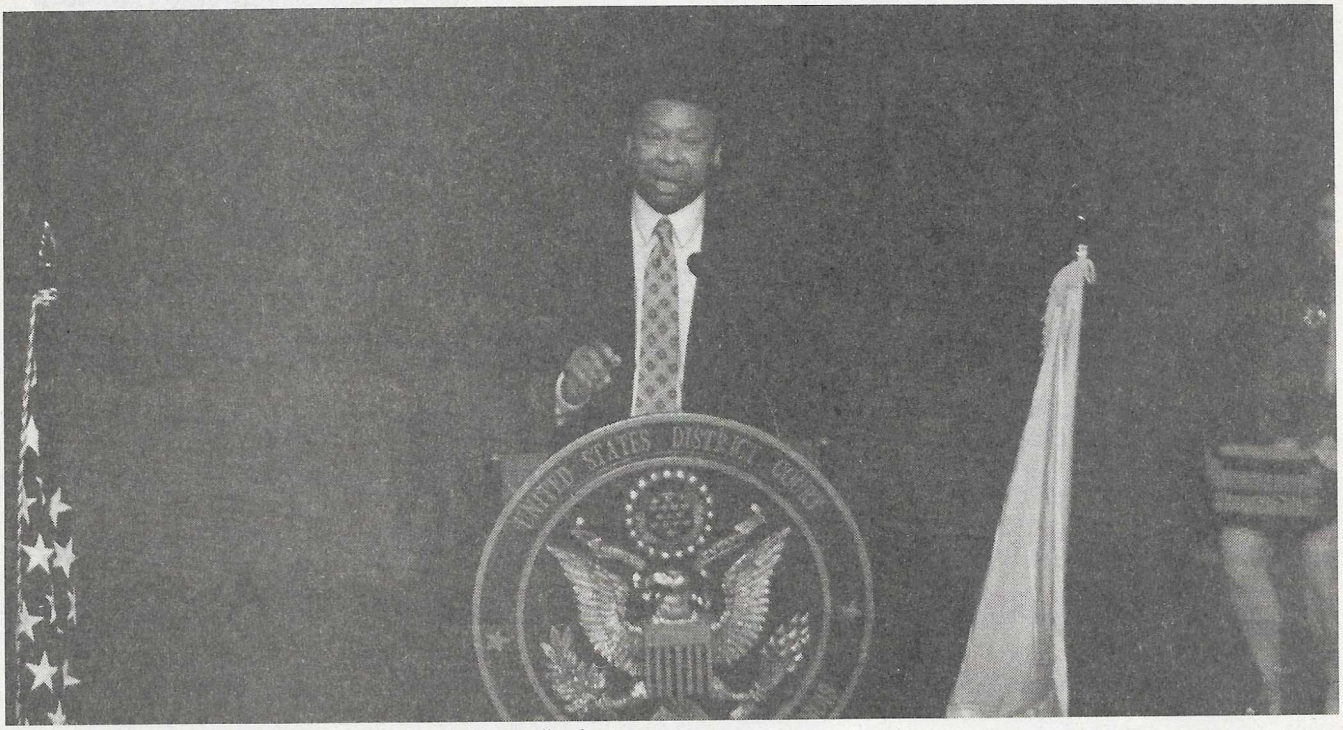
3) Practice, practice, practice. The last thing you want is a raw face from all the scrubbing under your makeup—it will hurt, and the makeup won't look right.

4) Setting powder helps to keep all of your makeup in place and prevent it from smudging or fading.

5) If you plan to wear contacts, put them on before you put on makep—your eyes will water and ruin it if you don't.

The Secret of America

BY LINDSEY ODOM



Superindtendent Ed Hightower speaks during the naturalization ceremony.

Hundreds of family members and friends flood the seats of Edwardsville High School's auditorium on Thursday, September 27 to watch 99 loved ones open the next chapter of their lives—becoming naturalized as US citizens.

Big names were in attendance, including Patrick Chavez, founder of the St.Louis Hispanic Bar Association, but they were not the focus of the day. People enjoyed the refreshments, pleasantries and the speeches given, but the main event remained the crowd of people accepted as citizens of the United States.

It is difficult to describe the emotion that fills a room as 99 people stand together, raise their right hands, and recite the oath of citizenship. Family pressed closer to the center, looking for the perfect photo opportunity. The joy on their faces is evident as they watch their loved ones take the first step into their lives as American Citizens.

Before the ceremony ever begins in the EHS auditorium, the Media Center buzzes with life and energy. Despite the mounds of paperwork yet to complete, people are excited, if not a little nervous. "It was more stressful than I thought it would be," said Jingle Reeb, from the Philippines. "There were lots of tests and things to study for. [But] I'm excited to become an American Citizen." Reeb's family passed the time on the lower level of the Media Center as she waited for her final packet of papers, which included a personal letter from President Barack Obama. Her son and daughter played happily while they waited for their mother to join them."We're very happy for her," said Reed's husband, Elmer. "She's waited a long time for this."

Other candidates were not quite as stressed about the experience, and sat calmly with friends and family while awaiting their turn. Jane Mariles, from Britain, said "I've been here for over 30 years now, so I just thought, might as well." Though she hails from Britain, her story is not unlike many native born citizens'—her two eldest sons joined the armed forces and served the country she's about to become a part of, and she's lived and worked in the states for many, many years. She, along with most of the other naturalization candidates, is most excited about the ability to vote.

This, among other topics, was something discussed at length. The ability to vote is a truly American ideal; a freedom citizens expect, and often take for granted. "These types of ceremonies should cause us to pause and reflect on our own freedoms and abilities as citizens that we often take for granted," said EHS Principal Dennis Cramsey.

Speakers at the ceremony reiterated over and again the honor and privilege of becoming a citizen. They described, in one way or another, the many freedoms and rights that would be newly provided to the candidates after taking the oath of citizenship. In true American fashion, a single cellphone rings out in the audience as Patrick Chavez spoke to the new citizens.

The audience quieted as speakers relayed their final comments, welcoming them as citizens of "the greatest country in the world."

The "Secret of America" stood from 99 everyday auditorium chairs, and quietly stepped into a new life. |||

Mirror Mirror on the Wall...

BY LINDSEY ODOM

Photoshop—the dark, evil shadow lurking in the corners of every girl's closet, the hidden reflection in every mirror.

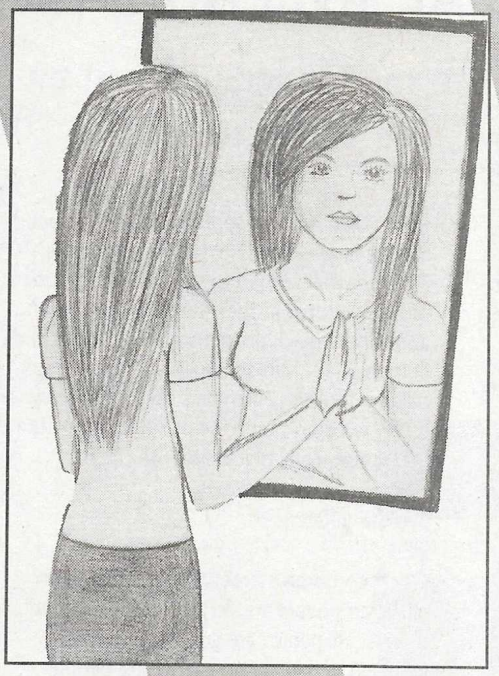
It is the tool that helps marketing departments make women thinner, taller, bustier, blonder, tanner, sleeker, and unreal on every possible level. It remains the weapon of choice for marketing departments who have made their sole mission the destruction of every girl's self esteem, the distortion of every woman's body image.

Its misuse is a blemish on our society, and it is time to reveal the truth of the matter.

"Beauty" has never been an easy ideal to achieve. Since the 16th century, ladies have been—sometimes literally—killing themselves to be beautiful. Women have soaked their faces in gruesome cocktails of anything from lye and cat dung during the Renaissance to vinegar and lead in the Elizabethan Era.

All of these were efforts to rise to the standard of pale faces and high foreheads among the supposedly "fairer" sex. Corsets abounded, resulting in broken ribs, deformed chest cavities, and punctured lungs on a regular basis. Today's beauty standards are less obviously deadly but certainly still as harmful.

Search any teenage girl's Facebook page, and you're almost certain to find a photo or a phrase that illustrates the inherent danger in these ideals. Photos that crow phrases like "Do you want a gap between your thighs, or a slice of pizza?", "Hipbones that jut out, or a soda?" adorn teenage female society like a necklace, just as much as they choke it. How, though, do we free our daughters from the noose of beatific oppression?



It all starts at the root of conventional beauty---one's figure. Since the beginning of recorded history, the ideal figure for a woman has always been a healthy, curvacious torso with long legs and wide hips, all the better for bearing healthy children and building a family.

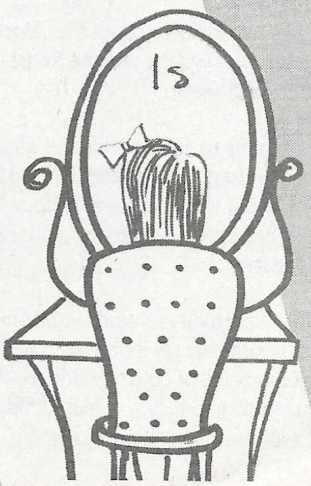
The ridiculous standard set by advertisers, models, and clothing manufacturers of incredibly skinny, tall women is unrealistic, unnatural and unattainable. When did society decide that women needed to be paper thin to be pretty?

Actresses, models, and even pin-up girls of the 50's were rubenesque examples of the age of class, beauty, and poise—women that everyone aspired to look and be like, yes, but women who were healthy! The girls and women presented to viewers in magazines today are Photoshopped and airbrushed within—literally—an inch of their lives.

Even smaller attributes like hair color, eye color, skin tone, and makeup are 60% Hair and Makeup departments, 30% photoshop mastery, and 10% natural beauty. The models themselves are gorgeous, no doubt, but no one is striving for their true beauty. They strive for a whole bunch of pointless pixels that lie.

The solution lies in reminding people that who they are is beautiful. One does not have to be a certain size, shape, skin tone, or hair color to be attractive. Find the beauty in yourself and who you are, and refuse to accept it when someone tells you that you aren't attractive just the way that you are.

Take a stand, and eventually, the rest of the world will follow. \\\



Artwork by Lindsey Odom

Racism, Racial Insensitivity Are Different

BY CAMERON THOMAS

Living in a mostly white environment is how many people have lived their entire lives, but for the minorities of these groups, it can sometimes be a problem.

Racial insensitivity, which we are addressing, is different from the stronger and more accusatory term of racism.

Here's an example:

Meet Allen. He is a sophomore, he is black and he is talking to his friends after class. A few of them begin to talk about their dislike of rap music. Mid-sentence someone stops talking, looks at Allen and says, "Oh sorry dude, do you like rap? I mean, they look like you so..."

This is racial insensitivity.

Here's racism:

Meet Allen. He is a sophomore, he is black and he is talking to his friends after class. A few of them begin to talk about a group of black people in their school. They go on about how black people are always rude and ill-mannered. Mid-sentence someone stops talking, looks at Allen and says, "Oh sorry dude, we didn't mean you. You're black, but you're not really black. Not like them..."

See the difference?

Other common stereotypes include that all Asian people are very studious and bad drivers, Hispanics are good dancers and involved in gangs and that white people are snooty and rich. Obviously, these assumptions or perceptions are false and only represent a small select group of individuals.

False perceptions of one's race lead to ignorance and confusion among young people and sometimes even full grown adults. It is understandable that one might joke around with family and friends about stereotypes and this is meant to be harmless. The problem with this is that when these "harmless" jokes are told to a person without much exposure to other races, misconceptions come about.

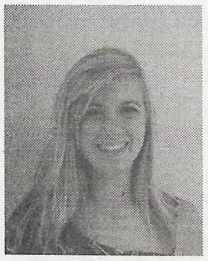
Misconceptions lead to racial insensitivity and that can possibly lead to true racism. To avoid this, please take the time to get to know the individual, and not the individual's background.

"Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Taylor Swift Goes "Red" In Fourth Album

BY KELSEY SIMS



New hair, new songs, but still the same, old Swift. Whether loved or hated, there is no denying Taylor Swift has captured the attention of the public eye.

No matter where we go, it seems like we can't escape her.

In the car, we continually hear her newest song, the repetitive, but regrettably catchy, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" played on the radio.

In stores we see numerous advertisements of Swift sporting her newest makeover.

That is not even to mention her constant appearances on the television shows and the internet websites.

On August 13, Swift announced that she will once again be making headlines as she releases a new album to go along with her new hairstyle.

In her sophomore album, released two years ago, "Speak Now", Swift both wrote and composed most of her songs. While in her next album, titled "Red", she decided to call in a bit of help from some of her musical idols.

These idols include the likes of Max Martin, Jeff Bhasker, Dan Wilson and the British singer/songwriter, Ed Sheeran.

"When it came to approaching this album I really wanted to go back to the drawing board and think about a different way to approach it," said Swift in a previous interview with Rolling Stone Magazine.

"I got the opportunity to work with some of my absolute favorite people in music," said Swift. "This album is full of co-writes and it's full of different people producing different things, and it's got a lot of collaborations going on."

"I'm so excited to for you to hear the new direction of things."

Three other singles have already been released from "Red" to go along with the afore mentioned, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

Currently, "Begin Again," "I Knew You Were Trouble," and the song which shares the album's title, "Red" are featured on Billboard Hot 100 songs in the past few weeks.

The inspiration for the album's title came from Swift's favorite color.

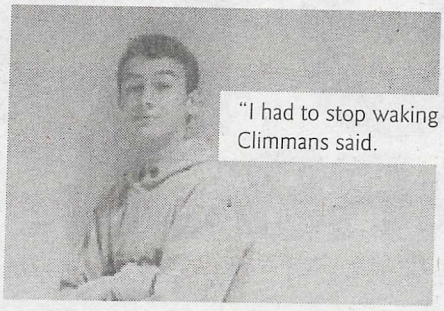
According to her, this next album is filled with crazy and intense emotions that she feels are best represented by the color red.

"There's nothing beige about any of those feelings,"she said.

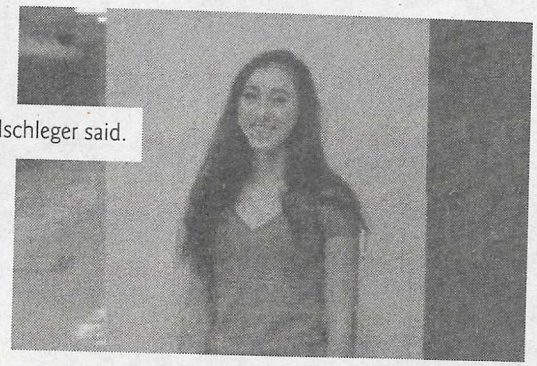
Swift's "Red" album is set to be released on October 22 of this year.

QUESTION OF THE QUARTER...

How were you able to make the transition from the summer lifestyle to the first quarter of school?

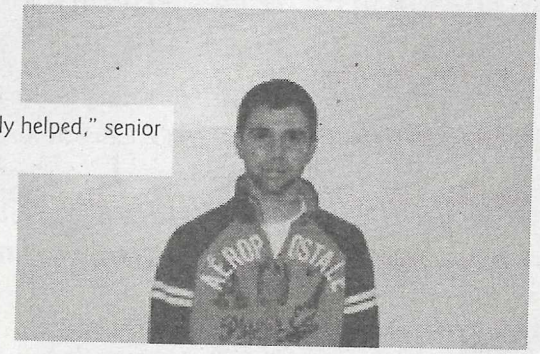


"I had to stop waking up at one [in the afternoon]," junior Dominic Mc Climmans said.

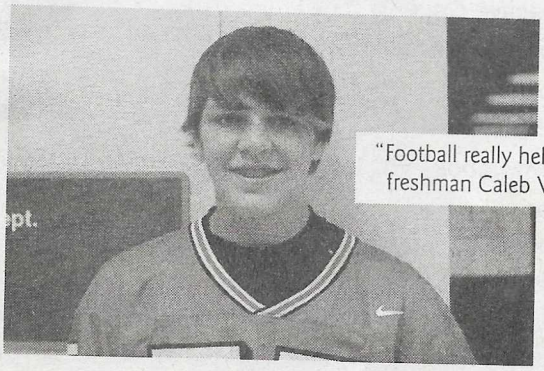


"I still haven't," junior Anna Walschleger said.

Freshman Ashley Whittaker said, "Having an older sibling who's been through high school really helped."



"I took naps in the afternoon. Those really helped," senior Logan Weshinskey said.



"Football really helped me because I got to meet new people and learn the school, freshman Caleb Wagenblast said.

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